

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19782

The purpose of this legislation is to establish a fund in the State Treasury to facilitate implementation of Phase I of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP), which was adopted by the Idaho Water Resource Board as a component of the Comprehensive State Water Plan and approved by House Bill No. 264 of the 2009 legislative session. The ESPA CAMP establishes a program for managing water supply and demand in the ESPA and sets a goal of achieving an incremental net change to the ESPA water budget of 200,000 to 300,000 acre-feet over the next ten years, and 600,000 acre-feet by the year 2030. The funding goals for Phase I of the ESPA CAMP call for funding participation from water users contingent upon a percentage of total funds being contributed by the state. This legislation specifically recognizes and allows for voluntary contributions from water users to provide a portion of the funds necessary to implement Phase I of the ESPA CAMP.

This legislation amends section 42-1780, Idaho Code, to create the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management and Implementation Fund to be referred to as the Secondary Fund. The Secondary Fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to the fund, moneys contributed by water users directly or through water delivery entities or districts having authority to contribute, or through contributions, gifts or grants from any other source. The legislation provides that all moneys in the fund shall be used for the purposes for which the moneys were provided. The legislation provides that all moneys in the fund are appropriated continuously to the Water Resource Board for technical studies, facilitation services, hydrologic monitoring, measurement and comprehensive plan development as well as for personnel costs, operating expenditures, capital outlay and water projects. The moneys in the Secondary Fund shall not be subject to the provisions of the standard appropriations act of 1945 or the provisions of section 67-3516, Idaho Code. The legislation provides that the State Treasurer shall invest the idle moneys in the Secondary Fund, and the interest earned on such investments shall be retained by the fund.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation does not constitute an obligation of state funds but does recognize the expectation that moneys contributed by water users to the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management and Implementation Fund will be matched by the state in accordance with ESPA CAMP Phase I funding targets.

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